

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 01857 131234Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 MCT-01 SY-05 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 EB-08 EUR-12 AID-05  
L-03 MCE-00 /070 W  
-----120781 131252Z /43

O 131120Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5203  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL DOUALA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1857

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PINS, PLOS, CMEK  
SUBJ: EQUATORIAL GUINEA SEIZURE OF ELFS SEREPCA HELICOPTER

1. WE HAVE JUST BEEN INFORMED BY THE AMERICAN CONSULATE THAT ON APRIL 11 EQUATORIAL GUINEA SEIZED AN ELF SEREPCA (OIL COMPANY) LEASED HELICOPTER WITH FIVE PEOPLE ON BOARD, WHICH FORCED DUE TO BAD WEATHER TO LAND MASIAS NGUEMA (EX FERNANDO PO) ISLAND. THEY ARE DEMANDING 25,000 DOLLARS PAYMENT FOR THE RELEASE OF THE PASSENGERS AND HELICOPTER. NO AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE INVOLVED, BUT ASSUME HELICOPTER AND PILOT FRENCH.

2. COMMERCIAL BANKING SOURCES (BICIC) IN DOUALA ARE ATTEMPTING TO RAISE THE NECESSARY CASH. CONSULATE HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO COOPERATE BY LENDING ANY US DOLLARS USG MAY HAVE ON HAND. AT PRESENT WE DO HAVE OVER 2,000 DOLLARS IN EMBASSY BUT UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY I DO NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO MAKE THIS MONEY AVAILABLE.

3. PLEASE ADVISE BY NIACT IMMEDIATE IF WE SHOULD LEND OUR DOLLARS THIS EFFORT AS EMBASSY HAS JUST BEEN APPROACHED  
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DIRECTLY BY BICIC YAOUNDE AND EXPECT FRENCH AMBASSADOR (ALSO DOYEN) MAY CALL NEXT.  
MITHOEFER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT DETENTION, HELICOPTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978YAOUND01857  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780159-0139  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Subject:** EQUATORIAL GUINEA SEIZURE OF ELFS SEREPCA HELICOPTER  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PINS, PLOS, CM, EK  
**To:** STATE LIBREVILLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3e70a1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014